



Mario Estrella

October 26, 1940 - December 7, 2018

SGM (Ret.) Mario Estrella, 78, Ocoee, FL, surrounded by family, went peacefully to be with our Lord Heavenly Father on December 7, 2018.

Mario was born in Iquitos, Peru on October 26, 1940 to Alipio Estrella (preceded) and Elisa Soares-Braga (preceded).

Mario married his one true love, Margaret Irene Key (preceded) on October 28, 1961 in Nassau, Bahamas. They met approximately 2 years before on the docks in Nassau while he was working on the cargo ships and she and friends would watch from the docks. The first time he saw her she was in her Girl Scout uniform and they kept in touch while he went into the service. Approximately 2 years went by and Mario made it back to Nassau, went to her place of work and asked her to marry him and they have been together ever since. They had four daughters, Margaret Eliana Cooper (Estrella), Marcia Elisa Ponsell (Estrella), Maria Elena Gibbons (Estrella) and Monica Irene Estrella (preceded).

Mario has two sisters Eliana Estrella-Soares and Gaby Coronado.

Mario has two sons-in-law, Robert Cooper and Robert Gibbons.

Mario has eleven grandchildren, Rachel, Mario, Roxanne, Ryan, Devyn,

Brianne, Lanea, Tessa, Chennell, Aaron, and Alexander and one great-grandchild, Scarlett, and many other family members from Nassau, Bahamas and Peru.

Mario retired as a Sergeant Major after 30 years in the U.S. Army. He served around the world, including in Korea and Vietnam and was a proud member of the 199th Infantry Brigade, the Noncommissioned Officers Association, the VFW and the American Legion.

Mario was a member of Resurrection Catholic Church in Winter Garden, Fl. where he was a member of The Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul.

Mario's favorite hobby was biking. He loved building new bikes from old bicycles and giving them to anyone who wanted one. Every year he would bike as many miles as his age that year.

Our dad, grandfather, friend, Mario Estrella, was truly the foundation of our family. In this regard he will be truly missed. He always kept his family and friends together in tough and trying times. He had the most positive attitude of anyone I know to the very end. He will be truly missed and we will always carry your memory in our hearts. We love you always and forever.

In lieu of flowers you may make a donation to a cancer charity or a veterans' charity.

The memorial mass will be held on December 13, 2018 at 10:00 am at The Resurrection Catholic Church, 1211 Winter Garden Vineland Road, Winter Garden Fl. 34787.

He will be interred along with his wife Margaret with full military honors at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, 5525 US-1, Mims, Fl. 32754 at 2:30 pm.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

DEC 13. 10:00 AM (ET)

Resurrection Catholic Church
1211 Winter Garden Vineland Road
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Graveside

DEC 13. 2:30 PM (ET)

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
5525 US-1 North
Mims, FL 32754
(321) 383-2638
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp>

Tribute Wall

ME

“ I visited Sergeant Major Estrella only a day before his death. I am blessed to have that day with him, more importantly to have had him as a soldier who taught me more than I could have taught him. I, too, served with the United States Army for 30 years, relocating 21 times. I met many professionals of his rank, but he was by far the best: personable, caring, dedicated, competent, and proud to wear the uniform. I know that every soldier who served with him is better as a soldier because of that professional association, When we were together in California, I visited him, Miss Margaret and their children. We spoke the day after his wife's death. I will miss him dearly. To all the Estrella family members: You have lived with the finest man with whom I ever served and you have so much for which to be proud. Do him good with whatever you do in your lives. Jim Pelosi.

Mario Estrella - December 23, 2018 at 04:56 AM



Suzanne Rolle

“ Our deepest say sympathy to Mike. We the Hall will continue to keep you in pray.

love 💕💕 Richard & Christine and Family!



Suzanne Rolle - December 13, 2018 at 09:20 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mario Estrella.



December 12, 2018 at 04:39 PM

MG

“ *1st Communion picture*



Maria Gibbons - December 12, 2018 at 11:15 AM

TA

“ *Tammie.hall@gmail.com lit a candle in memory of Mario Estrella*



tammie.hall@gmail.com - December 12, 2018 at 08:41 AM

MB

“ *Mario always entertaining...fun,true and real joy to be around.Rest my Portuguese friend.*

Mark Beebe - December 11, 2018 at 08:25 PM

SK

“ *My deepest condolences to Mario's family and friends. I will always remember the good times we had biking here in Rockford and in Florida. The mountain biking around Rock Cut State Park. Riding around Fort Christmas were I added alligator to my list of wild life seen from a bike, the trail at the Green Swamp and the bike paths around his house. The fun we had working together. I will miss the phone calls. I didn't get to visit near enough, but the visit last April with Linda was the best. He was truly a great friend to me and all he meant. I am proud to call Sergeant Major Mario Estrella my friend.*

Stan Kardell - December 11, 2018 at 07:06 PM

MV

“ I met SGM Mario Estrella, father of my close friend M. Eliana in the mid 1980's in Savannah, GA. We were both stationed at HAAF at the time. He was friendly, personable, seemed very close to and involved in his daughter Elianas life. He played with Rachael. And we partied, I thought he was a really cool Dad. Then I met him again in Nebraska, he welcomed me and my sister into his and Mrs Estrellas home. I saw him interact with His love Mrs Estrella and daughter Monica. And now Roxanne with Rachael. I didn't feel out of place and that meant a lot to me. SGM Mario Estrella has been a special father to my friend. Vaya con Dios y su familia ahora Sr. Estrella, vaya con Dios. Con mucho respeto. micheleabvoss~

michele voss - December 11, 2018 at 07:05 PM

AB

“ Mario was a wonderful , loving , funny , kind and generous man. A True gentleman.
We will miss you
Audrey & Mark Beebe

Audrey Beebe - December 11, 2018 at 05:56 PM

GR

“ UNCLE MIKE YOU WILL BE MISSED.YOU ARE NOW AT HOME WITH AUNT MARGARET AND MONICA.REST IN PEACE.

George Roberts - December 11, 2018 at 05:24 PM

SH

You will truly be missed at the post office

Sherhondatyler@gmail.com - December 12, 2018 at 01:39 PM